

Five mercenaries - two Englishmen, a Frenchman and two Americans, who had been recruited by Posey's CMA group - were arrested along with nine contras close to Hull's farm by Costa Rican police shortly after dawn on May 1, 1985.

In an interview with the *Globe* earlier this year, one of the five, Steven P. Carr, of Naples, Fla., said he believed that Hull had ordered their arrests because Carr had participated in a military raid on a Nicaraguan camp in which a number of Sandinistas were killed or wounded. Hull, he said, had warned the contras against engaging in any battles because Congress was then debating the contra aid package, and Hull did not want any negative publicity to damage the chances of passage.

A Costa Rican government leader, familiar with the operation, said the arrests had been made because the mercenaries' activity "was out of control, the entire operation, and we had to get them out of here." The five Western mercenaries spent more than a year in a Costa Rican jail before being released on bail this spring. Their trial on charges of possession of munitions is due to be held in Costa Rica later this summer.

The mercenaries were among about 20 men recruited by Posey's CMA organization to travel to Honduras and Costa Rica in 1984 and 1985 to aid the contras in their war against the Sandinistas. Although some congressmen have questioned whether the mercenaries may have violated US anti-neutrality laws by involvement in military engagements against a government with whom the United States was not at war, President Reagan originally praised their efforts, calling them volunteers for the contra "freedom fighters."

In interviews with a number of news organizations, members of the mercenaries said their activities in Central America consisted mainly of taking medical and humanitarian supplies to the contras, assisting in establishing contra camps and repairing automotive and military equipment.

Military role acknowledged

However, several said that they did take part in military forays

with the contras and did participate in the planning of other raids.

Soon after his arrest in Costa Rica, another of the mercenaries told reporters that shortly before arriving in the country he was, given the name of a man to contact if he ran into any trouble. The man was subsequently identified as the director of the CIA's Latin America division.

The primary purpose for the presence of several of the mercenaries, however, was not to lend support to the contras, the *Globe* was told. Instead, their goal was to provide information on CMA's activities to a CIA contract agent.

The agent, who agreed to be interviewed by the *Globe* on the basis that his identity would not be revealed, said that he had contracted with one agency official to pay to send several mercenaries to Central America through CMA.

The contract agent, who agreed to the interview because he was angry at the Reagan administration for its failure to secure the mercenaries' release from jail, said he was told by a CIA official to "bird-dog" the Posey operation to determine if they were "super patriots or just nuts."

"Let us know if they embarrass us," the agent quoted his CIA contact as telling him. He was told to keep the agency informed of his findings, which he said he did, and that his expenses would be paid. He said he has yet to submit a bill for his expenses, which he estimated at less than \$10,000.